

# West Gazette

The Student Newspaper of Hazelwood West High School

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Edited by  
DINA STARR

**PAWS**  
for NEWS

Disorganization accompanied good intentions at the first distribution of senior sweats.

An attempt to give the seniors their already overdue sweats plus miscommunication, resulted in a decision to hand out the sweats during third hour, allowing only ten minutes to organize. Senior sponsor Mrs. Andrea Taylor said that everyone who helped did an outstanding job when faced with the disorganization.

Mrs. Taylor said that the rumor about the Senior Class losing so much money was blown out of proportion, and that only a minimal amount was lost.

BY Doug Carr

Senior Jason Barfield had to put his talent to the test this summer. Jason won an Innovator award at Mosby Inc., where he works, for arranging the office so it was possible to print onto the network.

Many awards are given at the company every year, but Jason is the first co-op student to ever receive this honor. Jason is in the office co-op program and plans on majoring in computer engineering next year at SLU.

BY Kelly O'Heron

SWT's fall play is "Scapino," an Italian comedy involving two families arguing about who their sons are going to marry.

"It has a bit of comedy, drama, and action adventure all in one," said student director senior Clayton Robbins.

Lead cast members include seniors Vince Chandler, Adam Edwards, Chris Burney, and Cathie Degler, juniors Chris Pingel and Darryl Calmese, and sophomore Jim Hake.

BY Shonta Reid

Imagine you're in a foreign country and you don't understand a lot of what people around you are saying. This is a reality for seniors Yukiko Kaneko, Diogo Oliveira, and Tanja Wolf.

Yukiko is from Japan. She says she is loving her American experience. "School is different here. In Japan we stay in one classroom the whole day, and the teachers are the ones who move around," she said. She loves to sing and go places with her host sister, senior Jo Ann Croghan.

Diogo, who is from Brazil, is glad to be here but says he misses his four brothers back home. He loves McDonalds and is glad it is less expensive here.

"School is difficult but the people here are really nice," Tanja said. Tanja loves to sing and to work out. She wants to experience everything so she and her host sister Becky Dall go as many places as they can before starting their homework.

Diogo and Tanja will graduate with the class of '98. Yukiko will return to Japan with enough credits to graduate next year.

BY Becky Dall

Seniors Kimberly Carpenter, Stephen Hendrix, and Paul Kingston have been named National Merit Semifinalists and will continue in the competition for approximately 7,000 Merit Scholarship awards, worth about \$17 million. Senior Alicia Bell has been named a semifinalist in the 1998 National Achievement Scholarship Program.

Seniors Alicia Bell, Doug Carr, Rosalie Dickey, Josh Renaud, and Brad Zurweller have been named Commended Student in the 1998 Merit Program.

## 'A Few Good Men' Set Goals

Story by  
DINA STARR

Most students have taken another step up in their high school career. Two principals also were promoted in their positions with the administration this fall.

Mr. Steve Jurkins replaces Dr. Sarah Spalding as Building Principal. Mr. Jurkins served last year as Associate Principal but his history at West goes beyond that. He taught Drivers Education and Physical Education here for 16 years. He was also involved as a coach for both the football and basketball teams.

The desire to be more involved led him to a position in administration. Although the scope of his responsibility is greater now, Mr. Jurkins is determined to maintain his interaction with the students.

"I'm very committed and believe very highly in Hazelwood West," Mr. Jurkins said. He is also involved as a parent with two sons, Andrew, in seventh grade, and Zachary, a freshman, attending

West.

His commitment to students' well-being and future is shown in the emphasis he puts on tardies and attendance. Mr. Jurkins stressed that employers, colleges, and universities all look at your academic, extra-curricular, and attendance records. He says students should use high school years as a "great place for forming good habits and good work."

Mr. Jurkins' energies are not focused only on academics, but he also plans to make this year as enjoyable as possible for both students and staff.

Mr. Blaine Henningsen joins West as Associate Principal. Having taught junior high Social Studies at West until 1993, Mr. Henningsen refers to his return as "coming home." In 1993, he made the switch into administration as Assistant Principal for four years at Kirby Junior High. Although he enjoyed his position as a teacher, Mr. Henningsen desired a challenge in the same setting.

Mr. Henningsen's wife Cheryl also works in the district as a fourth

grade teacher at McNair Elementary School. In addition to the school families both have acquired through their jobs, two young sons of their own occupy much of Mr. Henningsen's time. Family comes first, and he was able to spend an enjoyable summer break with his wife and kids at many favorite entertainment spots.

After seeing to the needs of his immediate family, Mr. Henningsen also extends his care and concern towards West students. With 1500 more students here than at Kirby, he has more responsibilities such as Advanced Placement, college credit, extensive involvement in summer school, and daily concerns of students and staff.

Mr. Henningsen is confident in his ability in meeting the challenge. He plans to deal fairly with students. But also hopes once students get to know him "they will see I'm patient and will listen to the student's side of the story." The door to his office is always open so all will recognize his desire to participate in all West concerns.



**WELCOME BACK!**...Mr. Jurkins and Mr. Henningsen are always willing to extend a welcome hand to all students. Photo by CLAYTON ROBBINS

## Traditional Steps Are Classroom Additions

Story by  
STEPHANIE CLARKIN

If you enter the auditorium during first hour you will see approximately 16 high school girls dancing on the stage in an organized fashion. The teacher, Mrs. Debbie Ladd, goes through the movements with her students instead of calling out dance instructions. The Stage Movement class and Mrs. Ladd are two of the newest additions to the Fine Arts Department.

The class is designed to teach dance basics: basic ballet, tap, jazz, and social dance. The students will learn choreography, the philosophy and techniques behind creating a dance routine, and auditioning techniques. A possible long-term project the class may do is a showcase at the end of the semester. Part of the girls' final exam will include auditioning techniques.

The class is more informal than other dance classes since the dancers have to improvise by us-

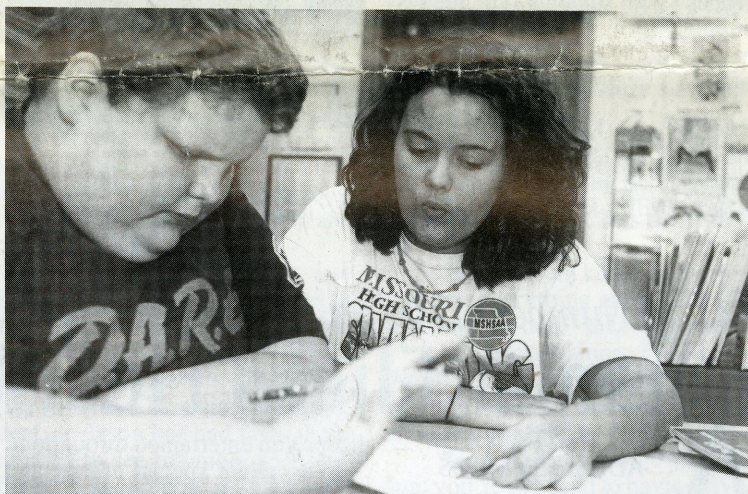
ing chairs instead of bars like in a formal dance studio. So this is an interesting experience for Mrs. Ladd. The teacher has been teaching dance at Lucille Rapp Dance Studio for five years.

"It's been fun but different since I have students at all different levels," said Mrs. Ladd.

At the studio her classes consisted of students who were at the same level of advancement. In addition to that, she has been teaching for Hazelwood East High School's Fine Arts Department for 14 years. Mrs. Ladd knows how to work with her students because of her teaching experience.

"The teacher relates well with the kids," said senior dance student Alison Irvin. "I really like it. It is great, and it is an all girl class."

The new dance class is almost like a miracle for junior Mandy Ostrowski. "I've always wanted a dance class in school but I never thought the school district would approve of it," said Mandy.



**NEW ROLE...**OCI adds color to day for Senior Tammy Miller as she assists in art class. Photo by JASON MYERS

## Special Program Offers Chance to Switch Roles

Story by  
KWAJELYN JACKSON

Almost every student has wished for a chance to be on the other side of the big desk, with 20 young faces looking up at them, to be in charge of an entire class, to assign homework, to grade the papers, and even to fail someone every once in a while.

Twelve seniors are learning about teaching in the Off Campus Instructors (OCI) program.

OCI was first offered at West three years ago. It was originated after students showed interest in teaching and wanted some experience. The students involved leave campus for a few hours and go to an assigned elementary school. The schools participating are Armstrong, Russell, and McNair. Students must be interested in a career in education and are graded by the teachers they assist.

Maggie Matthews says that her main duty at Russell is grading papers. She assists with the second grade and says that she has most enjoyed helping the students paint on T-shirts for their ocean unit. Maggie says that she hopes

to increase her responsibilities and believes that this experience will be valuable one day.

Dan Hough works at McNair. He says that he loves working with kids and enjoys everything about OCI. He says that he got involved after a friend recommended it and he requested it from his counselor. He assists the second grade and says that his favorite part is playing basketball with the kids.

Tracy Utt also loves everything about teaching second graders at Armstrong. And the kids love her too. "One of the little boys has a crush on me," she said.

Tammy Miller goes to Armstrong to help with the art classes. The funniest thing that Tammy has experienced was when a little boy glued a piece of cardboard to another boy's head.

Casie Steinbruegge assists in the Physical Education classes. She helps kids in all grades with their exercises and activities.

Many of the students recommend this program to others as a way of gaining experience in lesson plans, grading, testing, and simply controlling kids.



**1, 2, 3, Step, Plié....** The new Stage Movement class tries to beat morning fatigue and practice their pliés. Photo by EMILY THROGMORTON



# Opinions

Edited by  
JOSH RENAUD

## West Offers Loud Music, Letdowns...

Story by  
D.J. HENRICHS

Hazelwood West is a school that leaves people like me with other things to think about.

Letdowns should always be expected, no matter which year of school you are in. The first day, for example, was a letdown for many student drivers who were turned away at the half full church parking lot. Those who were privileged enough to get parking permits should be thankful for their exclusive spots.

Although some people have had the wrong attitude through their high school years, senior year brings most of us together. It just keeps getting better every year. Look forward to it underclassmen.

Something that really pulls my chain is an authority enforcing rules that don't really need to be enforced. I just hate being told to get to class when my watch plainly says I have a good four and a half minutes to relax before entering the doom of my next hour.

Another major subject to turn your attention to is the continuing love for music. Every emotion one could possibly imagine is all wrapped up in music. Hearing a sweet tune after school helps relieve some school time stress. I suppose I could use this space to plug my favorite bands but I figure that is what T-shirts and stereos are for.

The parking lot after school lets me see the music lovers out there. My ear drums are overwhelmed by all the bass blasting from your Camaros. Though fast cars and bass should not take the place of musical quality, go ahead and keep boomin', because it shows your coolness.

As much as I hate to say it, music isn't all this life has to offer. Our major student activities here at West sure do fill in the time. If we are allowed to, we can have fun in this educational environment. All this school needs is a little excitement and motivation and maybe some more lunatics at the pep assemblies. I would like a little more out of my last year of high school than letdowns and damaged eardrums.



Photo by  
CHRIS BURNEY

## More to Making Lunch Than Meets the Eye

Story by  
JOSH RENAUD

We whine too much. At least, that is how it seems to me. So many students grumble and make fun of school food in line, saying things like "What is that?" "Disgusting!" or "This is taking too long!" I wondered what the women who have to deal with serving lunch to high school students for several hours a day thought about it.

Cafeteria manager Mrs. Joellen Pruett surprised me when she said she preferred working with us to the elementary children she used to serve at Garrett. "I like talking with them one on one more as adults," she said.

I asked her about all the complaints. "Sometimes they're right," she said. "It may look terrible, and I may agree with them, but that's what we're serving."

A lot of students voice their gripes directly to the food servers, and the servers usually pass those comments on to Mrs. Pruett. "There is negativity, but that's okay, because how else will we know what they want?"

This year there is a new approach to serving food in the cafeteria. In a meeting this year, the cafeteria workers developed a strategy to try and "mend the fences" with students. The idea is simple: Be nicer to the students, and the students will be nice in return.

**POOH LOVERS...** Senior Marschnee Strong and Junior Jennifer Hairston model their Pooh paraphernalia. Photo by EMILY THROGMORTON

Has this idea worked so far? "There's been a big difference this year," said Mrs. Patti Rowland, one of the servers. Reacting to complaints with a smile, being friendly, and realizing that a student might have had a bad day has helped create a more courteous relationship.

I like the idea of cooperation to help make getting lunches a little friendlier. But cooperation goes both ways, so it is important that we, as students, not get frustrated when our food isn't perfect.

There are many reasons that there are mistakes from time to time. According to Mrs. Pruett, there have been problems with distributors delivering less food than she ordered. Mrs. Pruett, as the manager, is responsible for estimating how many students will eat the different foods offered for each



**YUMMY...** Mrs. Patti Rowland prepares a tray before serving lunch to West students. Photo by JASON MYERS

meal, and then ordering the food. From time to time, we surprise her by eating much more or less than she expected. These are two of the major reasons that students who have third lunch often end up with a different main course than what is on the menu.

Then there are the french fries. Mrs. Rowland emphasized that students do not realize how hard it is putting about 1400 lunches together every day.

Mrs. Pruett told me about the art of french-frying. There is one person who spends her shift frying, frying, and frying. The fry-person will usually start around 10:20 a.m. and not finish until 1:20 p.m.. It's a long, hot job with lots of pressure to get the fries out so they can be served.

Sometimes the fries are taken out too early in an attempt to meet this demand, and that is where the

soggy fries come from. As you might expect, occasionally the fry-person leaves them in a little too long, resulting in harder fries. When you consider all that is going on behind the scenes, though, I think they do a very good job of putting out good fries most of the time.

If something about your meal isn't right, instead of complaining about it or insulting the people who make your food, why not politely tell them how you feel and what you want? Mrs. Pruett pointed out that she can't do anything about problems if she isn't told about them.

"We are here to please you," Mrs. Pruett said. "We want you to be happy and give you what you want. When you don't get it, we aren't happy either. We really do want to please you and we want the finished product to look good."

## Pooh Obsession Sweeps Over West

Story by  
JO ANN CROGHAN

Here you are in pre-calculus class, relearning the Pythagorean theorem. You get bored, so you start to look around. What do you see? Well, you may see senior Marschnee Strong, senior Amanda Light, junior Jennifer Hairston or one of the countless other students at West who share a common indescribable love for Walt Disney's "Winnie-the-

Pooh". Winnie-the-Pooh, commonly known as "Pooh," is a multi-million-dollar phenomenon that has attracted many West students. Why is Winnie-the-Pooh so popular? "Pooh is the perfect man because he is cute, cuddly and will never hurt you," said Amanda.

For such a small imaginary stuffed bear, there sure is a lot of Pooh paraphernalia. There are stuffed Pooh bears, T-shirts, boxers, movies, pillows, and much more. Marschnee owns many of these things and even a Winnie-the-Pooh purse. Another Pooh fanatic describes her oddest item as a flattened Pooh balloon that she hung on the ceiling above her bed.

Pooh is not the only character on his show who is popular. Piglet, Tigger, and Eeyore are some of Pooh's well-known friends. How do these characters measure up to Pooh? Marschnee said, "I love Tigger, and Piglet is cool too, but it's Pooh's show."

Is there any serious meaning behind the whole Pooh thing, or is it just a way to excite one's inner child? Jennifer said, "Liking Pooh keeps me sane. He reminds me not to get all caught up in this hectic world of ours."

Perhaps Pooh is only an over-rated cartoon character. Perhaps Pooh is the great undying spirit that lives within us all. No matter what you think of him, he is very popular. To quote Eeyore the melancholy donkey, "Pooh is a real friend."

## Record Number of Movies Attract Film Fans

## Summer Flicks Heat Up Screen

Story by  
ADAM EDWARDS

Aliens are among us everywhere, the government is one big conspiracy, and the President's plane has been hijacked. The box office really threw some whopper plots at us this summer.

"Air Force One" puts you on an emotional roller coaster, and you ride it the entire movie. Harrison Ford does an excellent job as the President of the United States, whose plane is hijacked by terrorists. Although the plot wanders from reality at times, this is a thrilling, action-packed, box office hit.

One of the more unique movies of the summer was "Men in Black." It was an entirely different way to portray aliens. With the hilarious Will Smith and the serious Tommy Lee Jones, this movie

keeps you entertained throughout. The excellent special effects and the fresh story line are just a few reasons why you should try this film.

Mel Gibson does a superb job acting as a taxi cab driver who has paranoid theories about conspiracy in the government. "Conspiracy Theory" starts slow, but once one of the theories turns out to be true, it takes off. This movie has a great cast, with Julia Roberts and Patrick Stewart also starring.

"Conspiracy Theory" wasn't the only movie Julia Roberts played in this summer. In "My Best Friend's Wedding," Julia is no longer the helpless victim she usually plays. In this hilarious comedy, she tries to steal her best friend away from his bride, so she can have him for herself. With its dynamic plot and riveting cast, this movie will leave you longing for

more. In "Con Air," Nicholas Cage is a released prisoner, riding home on a plane full of convicts. When the convicts escape and take over the plane, Cage must be the hero. If you liked "The Rock," give "Con Air" a try.

Cage also starred in "Face/Off," opposite John Travolta. I found this to be one of his more challenging roles because he had to go from prey to predator and change his entire personality. This summer hit had a fair plot, a great cast, and action galore.

Demi Moore was tremendous in "G.I. Jane." She portrays a test case as the first woman Navy SEAL. This movie has plenty of action, and is a must-see.

This summer's box office was one of the hottest in history. What will the fall hold? Look for reviews in the next issue of the Gazette.

## West Gazette

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STAFF

**Tight 'n Trippy**

Over a month of school has gone by. We have a new principal, Mr. Jurkins. The Hazelwood Baptist Church sold parking passes. Seniors finally have their sweats. The Hazelwood high schools were united for a day at the Dome. We are having a bonfire for Homecoming! Rehearsals for the fall play are underway.

**Totally Tacky**

We still have eight months left. Now we can't sit in the Lobby after school. There were less than 25 spots available. Over \$300 worth of sweats were stolen. Hazelwood West was the only team that lost. Homecoming is not until November 1. There were only 18 parts to be auditioned for.



# Page 3 Features

Edited by  
**DAVE McGRAIL**

## STAR Signs

By  
**JOANN CROGHAN**

**LIBRA** - SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23. As your birthday approaches, be careful what you wish for—it may come true.

**Scorpio** - October 24 - November 22. Whenever you have butterflies in your stomach, call an exterminator.

**Sagittarius** - November 23 - December 22. Don't ever forget that a leaf is still a leaf, even in many different colors.

**Capricorn** - December 22 - January 20. Relationships are like buses, a new one comes every 15 minutes.

**Aquarius** - January 21 - February 19. You must respect anyone who is able to spell "super-califragilisticexpialidocious"—he or she may one day be your boss.

**Pisces** - February 20 - March 20. If you can remember only one thing remember this: "Trix are for kids." Try to take advantage of it as long as you can.

**Aries** - March 21 - April 20. When rains fall on your head, you'll get wet.

**Taurus** - April 21 - May 21. Roller coasters can be fun, but not after eating chili dogs... so be sensible on bumpy rides.

**Gemini** - May 22 - June 21. When coloring, don't worry about the lines. Sometimes they would like to be colored too.

**Cancer** - June 22 - July 23. Turtles have a shell to hide in and you don't so either:

A: Start speaking your mind or  
B: steal a shell

**Leo** - July 24 - August 23. If you go to someone's house and ask, "Is anyone home?" and you hear, "No," think twice before leaving.

**Virgo** - August 24 - September 23. Smile today for you don't know what is going to happen tomorrow.

## Are You In Love? How to Tell It's True

Story by  
**KWJELYN JACKSON**

The sun is shining, birds are chirping, the smell of roses is in the air, and all you can see is that special someone standing with open arms.

Then you wake up in a stuffy classroom with a 100 question test in front of you that doesn't even have your name on it yet.

Does this sound familiar? Is this love? Or do you simply have a short attention span? Well, day-dreaming is just one of the many signs of love that students gave. Here is a list of the top 10 responses.

1. You think about that person constantly.
2. You can stare into their eyes intently.
3. Everyday objects or songs remind you of him or her.
4. You can't seem to concen-

trate on anything else.

5. Your palms get sweaty whenever you see that special someone.

6. That person is the only one you want to be with...all the time.

7. You buy them gifts...and end up broke.

8. You start to think like him or her.

9. You smile constantly.

10. You think that all the stupid things they do are "so cute!"

Besides these common answers, a few Wildcats had some of their own ideas about love.

Senior Julie Ott thinks that if you and your sweetie can finish each other's sentences, then you might be in love.

Junior Becky Moyer knows she loves her boyfriend because she says, "When I'm not with him, my soul feels like it's empty."

Activities director Mr. Dennis

## Trip Home Turns Tragic Student Has Courage To Get Well

Story by  
**DINA STARR**

Jason Frede was just another student who had for four years walked among familiar faces into Hazelwood West on the first day. This year was different. This year Jason came through in a wheelchair and with a halo supporting his spine.

On July 13, his life was abruptly changed after his Ford Explorer went out of control. The Frede family was on the way home from a trip to the Ozarks. Headed east, Jason and his sister Alicia collided with westbound traffic and rolled four or five times. The next thing Jason remembers is awaking on the side of the highway and being taken by helicopter to Columbia Hospital.

In the emergency room, doctors found that Jason was suffering from a broken neck and a broken right arm. They told his family that Jason would probably never walk again.

But this is not a story of grim and unfortunate circumstances, but of Jason's courage and determination. This fall he returned to school, despite the odds, in full character. One teacher said, "His

attitude is great. He's keeping up just fine and is still able to be joked with and laugh."

With a humorous attitude and fierce determination, Jason has taken the challenges in full stride. Literally. Today he is making advanced progress walking and spends time daily lifting weights and working on his range of motion with his physical therapist.

Although each day he wakes with the same obstacles, his will to overcome is stronger. "I'm gonna get back to normal," he says. He plans to return to basketball and baseball his senior year.

Though Jason is on his way to recovery, his sister remains at Columbia Hospital where doctors are still working to repair a hole in her stomach. Jason's mother has stayed with Alicia since the accident, so Jason has had few opportunities to see his mom and even fewer to spend time with Alicia.

Friends have remained supportive. Because of the difficulty in transporting him, Jason's friends bring the action to his home almost every night. Jason is amazed at their commitment and effort. "They have been unbelievable and I would like to thank Billy, Dan, Alonzo, and Tyke," he says.

Jason came into West a little differently this year but not alone. Teachers and students are touched by his remarkable progress.

der the main building and connect it with the boiler room building by the tennis courts. Maintenance worker Mr. Chris Beltz described the tunnels as unpleasant caves.

A few weeks ago, the doorstops were removed from every door in the building to comply with a fire code aimed at eliminating drafts that can fan a fire. Ironically, in some rooms, the fire alarm is hard to hear when the door is closed.

What about the blue lights in the cafeteria? They are bug lights which burn throughout the night when all other lights are turned

off, attracting and ridding the school of insects.

The truth is out there. And remember the next time you are walking down the main floor hallway that, as Mr. Beltz put it, "You're standing on top of...catacombs."



**CATACOMBS EXPLORED...** Senior Jason Meyers emerges from a maintenance tunnel in assistant principal Mr. Bob Blake's office. Photo by CHRIS BURNEY



**GOOD-BYE...** Freshman Mike Calcaterra bids a fond farewell to his girlfriend, sophomore Jamie Coomer, as she heads off to class. Photo by EMILY THROGMORTON

**PDA TIME...** Seniors Eric McMullen and Kathy Gardiner sneak in a quick hug by the soda machines. Photo by EMILY THROGMORTON

Coffel, says if you see adults holding hands, they have got to be in love.

Love is a very personal thing, so just because you don't see one of the signs mentioned doesn't

mean love is far off. When it is true love, you will just know. Or as senior Lisa Walters says, you'll know you are in love when you're, "willing to be there when they're throwing up."

## Culture Shock at West

Story by  
**STEPHANIE CLARKIN**

When you walk down the hall you see many familiar faces, but what if the tables were turned and you knew no one? That is what happened to around 200 new students their first day at Hazelwood West High School.

"I was 20 minutes late for my first class," says senior Angie Frederking. Angie came from Citadel Christian High School. She had to adjust because Citadel had only 40 kids in the whole school. There were roughly six to eight teachers who taught three subjects each at Citadel.

"It is a culture shock. Nothing is the same except that I'm going to school," said Angie, whose last Senior Class consisted of 12 students.

"You go from knowing everyone and everything about them to knowing no one," said Angie.

Angie is not alone. Freshman Ariella Martin came from a class of one. She has been home schooled for the last few years.

"Coming out of home schooling, you're not used to having five minutes to run to your locker," said Ariella.

This is not her first time in the

Hazelwood School District. She went to elementary school in the fourth grade.

"It's weird. I know people from fourth grade and I get to see them again but grown up," said Ariella.

Ariella was reluctant about the idea of coming to West, but she has gotten used to it and has made a lot of friends.

"It is a lot more fun than being by myself," said Ariella.

On the other hand, junior Jacob Ruckman, was comfortable with the idea of entering a new school. This is Jacob's third time going to a new high school. He went to Hazelwood Central his freshman year and Mehlville his sophomore year. Jacob says that Hazelwood West's classroom layout is different from other schools he has been to.

"The classroom setup in the SS rooms is confusing and needs some time getting used to," said Jacob.

Most new students adjust on their own, although some kids like junior Dan Williams get lucky and meet someone in their neighborhood that helps them get through the rough transition of going to a new school.

## Bloopers and Blunders Are First Day Wonders

Story by  
**MELANIE HILL**

First day of school has the potential of being the worst day for students and faculty. Unfortunately, some students and faculty really had a bad first day this year.

For instance, in first hour Creative Writing class, Mr. Dennis Black bent over to pick something up and, RIP, his pants split. The rest of the class period, he walked sideways around the classroom. Luckily, his prep hour was second hour, so he was able to go home and change. He said he wants everyone to know that his pants split because "it was weak fabric not the size of my rear-end."

One junior student put all his notebooks, folders, pens, and pencils in his locker at registration. On the first day of school, he couldn't remember his combination. After every hour he tried three or four combinations. He said he went through 21 combinations of 8s, 10s, 18s, and 21s. Finally by sixth hour, he remembered.

After teachers have been teaching awhile, students begin to look alike. Mrs. Carole Weusthoff had one student in her Writing I class who looked like a student from her Modern Media class. "I thought he was just a look-alike," she said. About a week later, she realized it was the same student.

On her first day at West, seventh grader Paula Stanglein tried to open a salad dressing packet, and it squirted in her eye. "Italian dressing tastes good in the eye," she said.

In Mr. Jeff Patterson's eighth grade science class, Mr. Patterson was reading off the attendance and everyone was absent. "I didn't realize it until I was half way through it that I was reading off the wrong hour," he said.

During the first week of school, eighth graders were giving wedgies to seventh graders, and in some junior high classes, seventh graders were in eighth grade classes.

So maybe the first day of school wasn't so "perfect" for everyone.

## Truth Hunted Down; West Mysteries Explained

Story by  
**DOUG CARR**

A blue light special in the snack line. Catacombs under the school. What's going on here? Students have long wondered about many of West's mysteries.

Why are the CA rooms separated by seemingly paper thin walls in a 70s color scheme? Long ago those rooms were designed as "pods." The walls were designed to collapse so class sizes could vary. Then curriculum changed and left the school with interesting walls. Money has not been available to replace them.

The lights that hang down where hallways intersect are controlled from the office, and they are a silent alternative to calling a custodian over the PA system.

There are trap doors several places in the school. They lead to maintenance tunnels which house pipes for the heating and cooling of the building. They stretch un-



Edited by  
CHRIS DeGROAT

## Pain Slowly Turns Into Success For the CC Teams

Story by  
CHRIS DeGROAT

After the suffering at the First Capitol Invitational, a tree stood in the way of the Cross Country Team at McCluer North. The blood spewing out of senior Josh Anyan's shoulder after he rounded a corner too sharp is just a little of the beating taken by the runners throughout the first two meets.

Anyan placed sixth, with a time of 17:34 in the 5k (3.1 miles) race. It was the first time a West runner has finished that well in a varsity race since Sean Bernsen finished sixth in the district meet on October 23, 1994.

Our team still has a lot of room for improvement," said Anyan.

Coach Terry Meathaney said, "I saw a lot of improvement from last week. They had a great week of practice."

Anyan was followed by senior Ben Creen who finished 41st and junior John Wilmas who finished 51st.

Only one varsity girl did not improve her time at the McCluer North Invitational. Junior Michelle McFarland improved her time by 55 seconds and three other girls went up almost 30 seconds.

The freshman boys and girls are both looking very promising. There are 14 freshman runners this season, who all have potential to be competitive on the varsity level.

The freshman boys finished second at the McCluer North Invitational. Freshman Brett Snodgrass finished third in the

freshman race with a two mile time of 13:22.

Tomorrow the varsity team is going to Springfield to compete in the SMSU Invitational. The junior varsity runners are at a meet at Ladue today at 4 p.m.



**RUNNING HARD...**Senior Josh Anyan worked hard at McCluer North, where he finished in sixth place. Photo by Bob Frischmann

## Varsity Softball Is Back in the Swing of Things

Story by  
KELLY O'HERON

This year was going to be a rebuilding year for the varsity softball team, but not anymore.

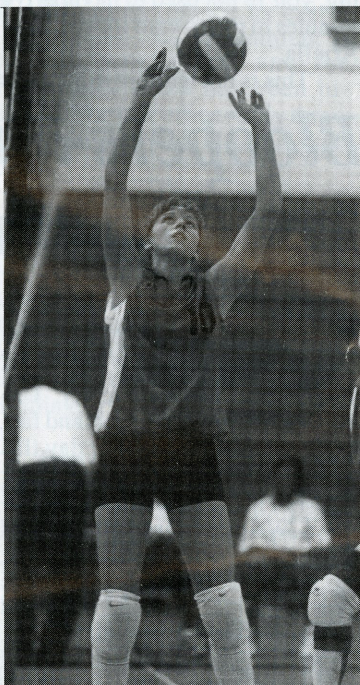
After losing three key players, Head Coach Elaine Harke wanted someone to step up and take control of the team. What she got was something entirely unexpected.

In the preseason Parkway Invitational, the 'Cats won the consolation bracket. "We are playing very well and getting better every game," says sophomore Courtney Coppedge.

"Pitching is our strong spot, as well as playing as a team," said Coach Harke. The pitching staff includes sophomore Katie Armstrong, senior Jenny Maas, junior Leslie McClellan, and junior Melanie Hart.

The JV softball team has also had its share of success. The 'Cats won the McCluer North JV Softball Invitational in early September and has an 11-2 record.

"Winning that tournament is a tremendous accomplishment, and I'm proud of the girls," said Coach Jeff Kuchno.



**TEAMWORK...**Sophomore Deanna Shelton sets the ball to senior Lynn Mayberry. Photo by JASON MYERS

Sophomore Katie Deming said, "I am committed to improving and growing as a leader, skillfully and mentally."

Another sophomore, Julie Doerring, believes they will do very well.

Next on the road to the state championship, the ladies will be at St. Charles West today after school at 4 p.m.

## Lady Wildcat Tennis Team Starts Season 6-2

Story by  
RENEE BAKER

At the spring tennis meeting, 40 girls signed-up. However when practice came around, only 20 girls came. Coach Phyllis Fitzgerald and Coach Dennis McFarland still felt the need to cut as they let more girls go.

"We're trying to have more background," said Coach Fitzgerald when explaining the

cuts. Last year's Girls Tennis Team consisted of 26 players. This year the team has been cut down to 16 players, 10 returning and 6 new.

Junior Jamie Schiller, who plays third singles, said, "Tennis is a fun sport, but it's hard." Schiller took lessons all summer to be prepared for the season.

This season the girls are looking at their individual records as well as the team stats. Most hope

# NEXT UP!

## FOOTBALL

VARSITY	OCT 3	RIVERVIEW	AWAY	7:30 p.m.
SOPHOMORE	OCT 3	RIVERVIEW	HOME	4:00 p.m.
FRESHMAN	OCT 6	C.B.C.	TBA	TBA

## SOFTBALL

VARSITY	OCT 4-8	DISTRICTS	TBA	TBA
JV	SEASON ENDED OCT 2 AGAINST McCLUER			

## VOLLEYBALL

ALL LEVELS	OCT 3	ST CHAR. W	AWAY	4:00 p.m.
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## SOCCER

VARSITY	OCT 6	ST CHARLES	AWAY	4:00 p.m.
JV	OCT 6	ST CHARLES	HOME	4:00 p.m.
FRESHMAN	OCT 9	ST CHAR. W	HOME	4:00 p.m.

## CROSS COUNTRY

VARSITY	OCT 4	SMSU INV.	AWAY	11:00 a.m.
JV	OCT 3	LADUE	AWAY	4:00 p.m.

## TENNIS

ALL LEVELS	OCT 3	HAZ. EAST	HOME	4:00 p.m.
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## Football Season Kicks Off Varsity Plays at the Dome

Story by  
RENEE BAKER

Hazelwood West's Varsity Football team started this season for the second consecutive year at the Trans World Dome.

However this year, unlike last, West's guys lost 17-13 against Eureka. Does this mean anything? According to Coach Butch Beiter, "one game doesn't make a season. Each game is big."

Quarterback junior Danny Wendt gave a reason for the loss, saying, "We played a pretty good game, except fumbles."

The team has ten games this year and they're taking things one game at a time. Coach Beiter said, "If we eliminate the mistakes, we'll be in good shape."

According to Coach Beiter, all the players are key and he expects

a lot from them all. The tailbacks include senior Delvin Walls, sophomore Christopher Williams, and sophomore Jimmy Chambers. The fullbacks are sophomore Damarco Ford and junior Alonzo Waldon. Some of the receivers are junior Arron Bryant, sophomore Ernest Stringfellow, and junior Robert Ford.

The Sophomore Football Team lost a lot of players from last year because of grades. This doesn't bother Coach Beiter, who thinks the players are doing well on both the sophomore and freshman levels.

The members of West's football teams seem to have an optimistic look at this season. Wendt warns, "People are gonna realize West is somebody that has to be dealt with."



**HIT HARD...**Sophomore football tried hard but suffered a tough loss to the Lafayette Lancers. Photo by CHRIS BURNEY

## Varsity 'Cats Pull Together Despite Youth

Story by  
KELLY O'HERON

After planning on rebuilding, guys varsity soccer is doing better than anticipated.

After losing two-thirds of his last year's Boys Varsity Soccer Team, Coach Dave Ellis is very optimistic about this season.

"The younger players stepped in and learned from last year. They made the transition a smooth one. And sometimes it doesn't work out that smoothly," said Coach Ellis.

Coach Ellis had trouble naming one or two key players because he says they play more as a team than individuals.

Many thought that the team would not be very good because of the great number of players lost.

Senior Ricky DeCaro says that they are "doing a lot better than anticipated," and he is looking forward to the rest of the season.

The varsity guys have a record of 4-1-2.

Despite some tough luck, the JV soccer team is doing well.

"Sometimes the ball just doesn't bounce the right way," says Coach Dean McGlasson. The freshman team has many skilled players, and is expecting a very successful season.

## With Plans to Be Best in School History... Volleyball Players Get Focused To Break School Records

Story by  
SHANNON McLAUGHLIN

As the doors to the gym open, you hear shoes squeaking, balls bouncing, and girls talking with enthusiasm. This would be the girls Varsity Volleyball team. They are not just skilled volleyball players, but they are truly determined to be the best in the history of the school. All nine players are determined they will beat the school record of 23 wins this year. The five seniors and four sophomores are focused on making it to the state championship.

Senior co-captain Karen Uttech believes that going to state is their goal. Uttech said as a captain she is determined to be "focused on every game, and to be a leader on the court."

Coach Ken Archibald, says he expects to win more matches than ever in school history. Archibald believes there is no one player he will work the team around. He said, "I need all nine players' strength, from top to bottom."

Compared to past teams, senior co-captain, Lynn Mayberry said, "As a whole there are many more players to work with."

With the determination high, even the younger players are pumped. Uttech is pleased to see the sophomores being a big part of the team.

"The sophomores have really stepped up," explained Uttech.